

December 18, 2007

Greg Hagenston
Montana Citizens for Right to Work
PO Box 1475
Helena MT 59624

Subject: Lobby Report Penalty

Greg, I reviewed your November 15, 2007 letter regarding the civil penalty of \$2500 imposed against Montana Citizens for Right to Work (MCRW), based on its late filing of a lobbying disclosure financial report. Your letter notes that your employee, John Hagen, apparently neglected to file the reports. Your letter requests a hearing, and waiver of the penalty.

While we cannot provide a hearing, I am waiving the \$2500 civil penalty. Section 5-7-208(1), MCA, states that a principal is subject to the reporting requirements only if the principal makes lobbying payments exceeding the threshold amount in § 5-7-112, MCA during a calendar year (currently \$2300). A review of our records shows that MCRW reported spending less than the threshold amount.

Section 5-7-306(3), MCA, permits a person to request a hearing within 10 days of receiving notice of imposition of a civil penalty. Our file discloses that MCRW was notified on August 6, 2007, that a civil penalty had been imposed. Another notice was sent on September 11. Both notices were mailed to the principal's most recent address as listed in our records, but we received no response or request for a hearing until your recent communication.

A friendly reminder – principals have an obligation to become familiar with the reporting requirements for lobbying financial disclosure reports, including the applicable due dates. In addition, the staff of the office of the Commissioner is always available to answer questions or provide information or clarification regarding the reporting requirements.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis Unsworth", with a stylized, flowing script.

Dennis Unsworth
Commissioner of Political Practices